

Daniel T. Swinburne House
6 Greenough Place
Newport
Newport County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-312

HABS
RI,
3-NEWP,
46-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

DANIEL T. SWINBURNE HOUSE

HABS
RI,
3-NEWP,
46-

Location: 6 Greenough Place.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. James C. Colton.

Present Occupants: Owners.

Present Use: Single family dwelling.

Statement of Significance: This is a two story, frame Gothic Revival house. It is one of the best preserved examples of a type seen in several mid-19th-century sections of Newport and elsewhere.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

The building is located in Plat 22, Lot 27. The following is an incomplete chain of title from Newport City Clerk's Records for the city of Newport. Reference is to number and volume of the Land Evidence Books, (LEB.--, p.--).

Prior to 1863, Daniel T. Swinburne purchased a large parcel of land in this, now residential, area of Newport. He divided this parcel into many lots, retaining the following property as the Daniel T. Swinburne Homestead. (For the subdivision of the large parcel, see the Mary T. Porter House, HABS No. RI-314.)

1897 Deed of September 3, 1897, recorded in LEB. 72, p. 554.

From: Heir of Daniel T. Swinburne, George K. Swinburne
To: Lena W. Swinburne, wife of Daniel

"... interest in the estate of Daniel T. Swinburne... twenty lots of land owned by his father... the first of which... the Swinburne Homestead, so called, situate on the Northerly side of Greenough Place near Ayrault Street, bounded Southerly on said Greenough Place, Easterly by land of Henry H. Fay, Northerly by land of Alfrederick S. Hatch formerly, but now of the heirs of Alfred Smith, deceased, and Westerly on land of the

heirs or devisees of Waldron Pell, deceased..."

1905 Deed of June, 1905, recorded in LEB. 85, p. 174.

From: Heirs of Daniel T. Swinburne, William Swinburne,
Henry Swinburne, George K. Swinburne, Lena W.
Swinburne, wife

To: Virginia S. Brownell, wife of William C. Brownell,
Harriet S. Hale, wife of William G. Hale

1930 Deed of July 14, 1930, recorded in LEB. 124, p. 503.

From: Devisees or heirs of William C. Brownell

To: Dorothy Swinburne McNamee

"... one undivided half interest..."

(See also LEB. 128, pp. 122, 529; LEB. 134, p. 217;
LEB. 137, p. 384; LEB. 148, pp. 171, 176, 248.)

1953 Deed of September 5, 1953, recorded in LEB. 182, p. 485.

From: Dorothy S. McNamee

To: Thomas M. Shock

1962 Deed of December 10, 1962, recorded in LEB. 207, p. 576.

From: Thomas M. Shock

To: James C. Colton and wife

2. Date of erection: 1860-1863. The Newport Directory 1863 lists Daniel T. Swinburne on Greeno Place near Ayrault Street. The 1859 Dripps survey map of the city of Newport shows this land vacant. The 1860 Hammett survey map also shows this property as undeveloped. The 1870 Beck survey map shows the house. The 1876 Hopkins survey lists the house as belonging to the Daniel T. Swinburne heirs. Stylistically the house could date ten to twenty years earlier. But if it were built before 1860, it must have been moved to this site. There is no documentary evidence to suggest this house was moved. It simply seems to be a later example of this type.

3. Architect: Unknown

4. Builder: Unknown

5. Original plans: None known

6. Alterations and additions: The house has survived with few

alterations, although the present white colors are apparently not original. A paint chip collected while visiting the site suggest that the exterior was a neutral pink sandstone color.

7. Important old views: None known

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

In the 1863 Newport Directory Swinburne was listed as a business associate of Goffe. In the 1869-1870 Newport Directory he was identified as an auctioneer.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:
Records of Deeds in the Newport City Hall.
Newport Directories in the Newport Historical Society.
Newport Survey Maps, 1859, 1860, 1870, 1876, Newport Historical Society.
2. Secondary and published sources: None known.
3. Likely sources not yet investigated:
Family papers of Oaniel T. Swinburne.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a well-preserved example of a type of frame, Gothic Revival house characteristic of this period and area.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: About 36 feet plus bay windows by 30 feet plus rear ell; 3 bays; two stories.
2. Foundations: The foundations are brick plastered and scored to resemble regular ashlar masonry at the front.
3. Wall construction: The house is covered with clapboards with polygonal corner boards now painted white.
4. Structural system: The house is of frame construction.

5. Chimneys: The two tall, oblong brick chimneys at the ridge line have triangular projections on the long sides.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways: The two leaf door, set in a Tudor arch, is composed of six panel doors with Gothic shapes. Side and top lights with etched glass in Gothic details are set around the doorway.
 - b. Windows: The tall double hung windows have four or six light sashes. The second floor front windows with pointed, arch shaped upper sashes and arched muntins are set in gables. The windows are capped with solid, heavy label moldings terminating in large drops. There are three window, two story bays on the east and west sides. There are louvered shutters on the first floor front windows. All other windows have pintels.
7. Roof: The steep gabled roofs, three gables to the front, are covered with large, square asbestos shingles laid in a diamond pattern. The open eaves have heavy sawn bargeboards.
8. Porches, stoops, and bulkheads: The one story front porch with a concave hip roof and flat deck has end walls of orchid patterned lattice work.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The house has a central hall with the front parlors to the left and right. The parlors open into the east and west bays through Gothic archways. There is a small study at the right rear. The rectangular dining room is located at the left rear. The kitchen and pantry are in the rear wing. The second floor follows a similar arrangement.
2. Stairways: The straight run, open well stairway is located in the central hall. It is decorated with two turned balusters per step, sawn scroll step end ornaments, a heavy turned newel, and molded rail. A curved back stair leads from the kitchen.
3. Flooring: The first floor has wood strips 2 3/4 inches wide. The second floor has random width hardwood flooring, 3 inches to 8 inches wide.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: All walls and ceilings are plaster. The first floor ceilings are about ten feet high.

5. Doorways and doors: The four panel wood doors with heavy trim are set in molded, mitered doorways.
6. Special decorative features: The first floor principal rooms have cornices with deep cavetto moldings. The parlor ceilings are decorated with center rosettes. The dining room ceiling contains a recessed Gothic arch. All principal rooms have fireplaces with marble mantels, arched openings and coal burning grates.
7. Hardware: All door knobs are of white porcelain.
8. Lighting: All fixtures are modern.
9. Heating: There is a modern heating system.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south in a residential section of comparable dwellings.
2. Historic landscape design: The oval drive which is shown on early maps circles in front of the main entrance. The level lot has a surrounding hedge and other informal plantings.
3. Outbuildings: The 1 1/2 story carriage house with gable roofs and clapboards has been altered to serve as a garage.
4. Walks: None. The front porch is reached by a series of five steps from the oval drive.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Newport HABS Project -- 1969. Sponsored in cooperation with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman. Under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and Osmund Overby, (University of Missouri), Project Supervisor, Jack E. Boucher, photographer.